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Penalty Urged for Disclosure of Spies' Identities

CIA Director Says Bill Is Needed to Provide Jail Terms Up to 10 Years

WASHINGTON (AP)—CIA Director William J. Casey said Friday that a bill to jail anyone who publicly identifies a U.S. spy is needed to prevent serious harm to American intelligence agencies.

"I can confirm that the unauthorized disclosures have resulted in untold damage and, if not stopped, will result in further damage to the effectiveness of our intelligence apparatus and hence to the nation itself," Casey said.

He testified before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee that is considering a bill, sponsored by Sen. John H. Chafee (R-R.I.), to impose jail terms of up to 10 years for anyone with access to classified information who discloses the name of an agent.

Bill Failed Last Year

Similar legislation failed to reach a Senate floor vote last year as opponents contended that it was unconstitutional and could stifle legitimate news reporting of intelligence activities.

Casey and other supporters of the bill insisted that it was constitutional and would not interfere with the

rights of the press or others in legitimate pursuit of information.

Sen. Jeremiah Denton (R-Ala.), the Subcommittee chairman, said, "The disclosure of the identity of a covert agent is an immoral act which cannot be tolerated."

Denton, a prisoner of war in North Vietnam for more than 7½ years, said the absence of criminal penalties for disclosure of spies' names was cause for glee among enemies of the United States.

Communists 'Pleased'

"From my personal contact with high-ranking Communists, they are amazed, amused and highly pleased" that agents' identities can be revealed with impunity, Denton said.

The bill is aimed in part at a publication called Covert Action Information Bulletin, which has repeatedly published the names of alleged American agents.

U.S. officials have blamed the publication for causing the death of CIA agent Richard Welch in Athens in 1975.

"A substantial number of these disclosures have been accurate,"

Casey said. "I am hopeful that we will soon see enactment of a measure which will finally put an end to the pernicious and damaging unauthorized disclosures of intelligence identities."

The American Civil Liberties Union and Americans for Democratic Action testified against the Chafee proposal.

ADA Director Leon Shull said, "It should not be necessary to muzzle the press and forbid the publication of unclassified information to meet foreign policy objectives."

The Capital Report**Hill Panel OKs Upgrading
Of CIA's Intelligence Rival**

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has recommended that the Defense Intelligence Agency be given broad authority to upgrade the status of its analysts so that it can operate more effectively with the CIA.

"If the benefits of 'competitive analysis,' a concept which both the administration and the committee strongly support, are to be realized," the report states, "it is imperative that the DIA have analytical capabilities comparable to its sister agencies."

The recommendation is contained

in a report to the Senate accompanying the secret spending authorizations for intelligence agencies. The report was scheduled to be released today.

The authorization would enable the DIA to implement a wide range of personnel measures designed to "attract and retain high quality personnel in competition with other intelligence agencies."

The recommendation has stirred sharp debate within the Senate committee and the intelligence community, and has been strongly resisted by CIA officials, according to Capitol Hill aides familiar with the debate.

A transition report prepared for the Reagan administration during the transition endorsed the principle of "competing" centers of intelligence, but did not recommend specific steps to achieve this goal.

CIA Director William Casey also endorsed the concept of encouraging intelligence agencies to make independent assessments, but declined to elaborate on specific plans.

Despite Casey's endorsement of the approach, many CIA officials believe that upgrading the DIA or other intelligence agencies would inevitably result in a diminution of the CIA's leading role in analysis. Hence, they have adamantly resisted such measures.

The fate of the recommendation is also complicated by the fact that the House Intelligence Committee has not endorsed providing the DIA with greater personnel flexibility in its report to Congress.

The Senate committee's 74-page report is unusual in that it does not contain a blanket endorsement of the CIA's performance.

In fact, the report contains several specific criticisms of the intelligence community's operations.

"The U.S. intelligence system is not able to deal with the multiple crises as we have experienced recently, without diverting resources from other high priority missions," the report concludes.

"Moreover, in many areas of the Third World, coverage by the U.S. intelligence system is either marginal or non-existent."